



# OCTOBER 2026 PROGRAMS

All programs are free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted. Children under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. The Great Falls Discovery Center is located at 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA. For more information, call the Visitor Center at (413) 863-3221.

 ADA/Reasonable Accommodation:  
Call (617) 645-0358, or email [Moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov](mailto:Moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov)

Coming Events

**Visitor Center Open Hours.**

**Tuesdays, 10:00 am–4:00 pm,  
Wednesdays–Sundays, 10:00 am–5:30 pm,  
Open Monday, Oct. 12, 10:00 am–4:00 pm.**  
Explore the natural, cultural and industrial history of the Connecticut River Watershed with our dynamic exhibit dioramas year-round. Adjacent to the Canalside Rail Trail, the center also includes the Great Hall exhibit gallery, restrooms, and drinking water. Wheelchair accessible. Closed Mondays, but open Monday holidays.

**Ongoing,**  
Oct. 3 –  
Nov. 30.  
  
Accessible during open hours.

**Great Hall Exhibit: Migrations.**  
Migrations paintings, curated by GuateMaya Art and Culture Connection, celebrate the human and natural diversity of the upper Connecticut River Valley and the Americas. Colorful works depict scenes integral to village life, Mayan culture, and the history of Lake Atitlan in Guatemala. For all ages.

**Ongoing,**  
Oct. 3 –  
Nov. 3.

**Great Hall Exhibit: Day of the Dead Altar.**  
View a Day of the Dead Altar built by local families with support from the Heartwing Center. Learn about the tradition of leaving messages of love to honor and commemorate loved ones. For all ages. Accessible during open hours.

**Ongoing,**  
Oct. 7 –  
Nov. 12.

**Outdoor StoryWalk® — Mole Music.**  
Enjoy a story, fresh air, and exercise! Join us on the Discovery Center’s grounds for a free self-guided Story Walk® featuring Mole Music by David McPhail, about the power of music to bring peace. For ages 4-7 and everyone who loves moles playing violins!

**The StoryWalk® Project** was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT, and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson. This StoryWalk® is provided by Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Interpretive Services.

MORE PROGRAMS CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE.



# OCTOBER 2026 PROGRAMS

Coming Events

**Thursdays,**  
Oct. 1, 8,  
15 & 29.  
**10:00–**  
**11:00 am.**

**Nice & Easy Walks.**  
Easy-paced, 1- to 2-mile guided walk, along the Canalside Rail Trail or downtown Turners Falls, geared for older adults, but open to all. Enjoy some natural and local history along the way. Dress for the weather with sturdy footwear and bring water. Inclement weather cancels. Meet at the main entrance. **Note: no walk on Oct. 22.**

**Fridays,**  
Oct. 2, 9, 16,  
23 & 30.  
**10:30–**  
**11:30 am.**

**Kidleidoscope Story Hour.**  
For ages 3-6, accompanied by an adult. Learn more about our wildlife neighbors in the Connecticut River Watershed. Program includes a story, activities, and crafts. Activities are indoors and outdoors, weather permitting. Siblings and friends are welcome. Meet in the Great Hall.

- **10/2: Fox.**
- **10/9: Leaves.**
- **10/16: Squirrels.**
- **10/23: Night Animals.**
- **10/30: Bats.**

**Friday,**  
Oct. 2.  
**4:00–5:30 pm.**

**First Friday: Immigrant Institutions Tour.**  
How long does it take to become a community? Who gets to be from a mill town? Take a tour of downtown Turners Falls through the institutions that immigrants built in the 19th and 20th centuries. Meet DCR staff outside the Great Hall for this 1.1-mile guided walk. Ages 8 and up.

**Saturday,**  
Oct. 3.  
**11:30 am–**  
**4:30 pm.**

**Caterpillar Lab:**  
**A Live Insect Drop-in Exhibit.**  
Get up close to the incredible world of caterpillars and visit the [Caterpillar Lab](#)’s drop-in live caterpillar exhibits in the Great Hall. Explore and view these amazing insects under a microscope, and learn what they eat, how they transform into butterflies and moths, and the fascinating ways they survive in the wild. You’ll even discover which caterpillars may be living right in your own backyard. Visit for a few minutes or linger awhile — there’s always something new to notice. Designed to engage everyone from curious kids to experienced naturalists. All ages. Sponsors: Magic Wings, the Greenfield Garden Club, and the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

**MORE PROGRAMS CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE.**



# OCTOBER 2026 PROGRAMS

# Coming Events

**Saturday,**  
Oct. 3.  
**4:30–**  
**5:30 pm.**

**Caterpillar Lab Walk.**  
Join the Caterpillar Lab for a guided walk through downtown Turners Falls, and portions of the Canalside Rail Trail, in search of native caterpillars and the plants they depend on. Discover these remarkable insects in their natural habitat while learning about their life cycles, host plants, and the important role they play in healthy ecosystems. Space is limited, register by emailing [janel.nockleby@mass.gov](mailto:janel.nockleby@mass.gov). Sponsors: Magic Wings, the Greenfield Garden Club, and the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center. Ages 6+.

**Sunday,**  
Oct. 4.  
**10:30 am–**  
**12:00 pm.**

**Art Naturally:  
Painting with Inks from the Garden.**  
Discover nature through story, poetry and art in our series of free art programs. With instruction and technique, you create an art piece to take home. *Do you grow red cabbage? Are squirrels leaving acorn caps all over your yard? Do you like to cook with onions?* You can make ink with these natural ingredients! Learn how “pigment practitioners” are making ink and then use ink that we have already made to draw or paint small art pieces suitable for framing or greeting cards. For adults, teens, and children ages 6 and up. Free. All art materials provided. Meet in the Great Hall at 10:30am for complete instructions.

**Friday,**  
Oct. 9.  
**7:00–9:00 pm.**

**Great Falls Coffeehouse: A Touch of Class.**  
Join us for the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center’s concert series featuring local talent. A Touch of Class offers jazz tunes from the Great American Songbook. Refreshments available. Sliding scale suggested donations, in support of educational programming at the Center. All ages. Meet in the Great Hall.

**Sunday,**  
Oct. 11.  
**10:00–**  
**11:00 am.**

**Leaf Peeping Walk.**  
What makes a New England fall different from others? Can we ever experience the same fall twice? Join DCR staff outside the Great Hall for this 0.8-mile, accessible guided walk. Ages 6 and up.

**MORE PROGRAMS CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE.**



# OCTOBER 2026 PROGRAMS

---

# Coming Events

**Sunday,**  
Oct. 11.  
**2:30–4:30 pm.**

**A Québécois (French Canadian) Jam Session.**  
French Canadians played a key role in building Turners Falls, arriving in the late 19th to dig the canal and work in the local mills. They joined Irish, German, Polish, and Bohemian immigrants to shape the village’s working-class and immigrant heritage. For this jam session, an informal group of musicians gather to honor this rich and joyful French Canadian music. Please note, this is not a performance but rather a coming together of musically minded friends. Free and open to the public to come and go at will.

**Saturday,**  
Oct. 17  
**10:30 am–1:00 pm.**

**Find Us at the Farmers Market!**  
Join DCR staff for family activities at the Great Falls Farmers Market, **located between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> streets along Avenue A at Peskeompskut Park.** For all ages.

**Sunday,**  
Oct. 18.  
**11:00 am–3:00 pm.**

**Archeology Month:  
Indigenous Fishing Along the Kwenitekw.**  
Join DCR as we celebrate Archaeology Month! Learn about the cycle of the seasons from the Indigenous perspective, traditional fishing methods along the Kwenitekw (Connecticut) River, help to weave a fishing net, and more! Free and open to all. Presented by the First Peoples, First Stewards Partnership Program and the Office of Cultural Resources. All ages. **Meet on the front lawn by the Center entrance.**

**Saturday,**  
Oct. 24.  
**3:00–4:00 pm.**

**Saturday Movie Matinee:  
The Extraordinary Caterpillar.**  
The Extraordinary Caterpillar documentary follows scientists and community activists in the dazzling world of nature’s tiniest superheroes. From suburbia to exurban meadows, abandoned lots to city parks, this captivating family movie shows that exploring our environment begins not in distant wilderness, but right outside our doors! Filmmaker Jeff McKay’s documentary features Sam Jaffe and the Caterpillar Lab, Doug Tallamy, and David Wagner. Accept this invitation to discover the amazing creatures quietly working miracles in our backyards and find out practical ways to make a difference. All ages. Meet in the Great Hall.

**MORE PROGRAMS CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE.**



# OCTOBER 2026 PROGRAMS

---

# Coming Events

**Sunday,**  
Oct 25.  
**10:30 am–**  
**12:00 pm.**

**Art Naturally: Tin Can Paper Making.**  
Discover nature through story, poetry and art in our series of free art programs. With instruction and technique, you create an art piece to take home from scrap paper, denim shoddy, abacá, a sponge, screens and even two tin cans. For adults, teens, and children ages 6 and up. Free. All art materials provided. Meet in the Great Hall at 10:30 am for complete instructions.

**Sunday,**  
Oct. 25.  
**2:30–4:30 pm.**

**A French / Breton Jam Session.**  
An informal group of musicians gathers to play the enchanting traditional dance music from France and Brittany, commonly known as bal folk. This is not a performance but rather a coming together of musically minded friends. The event is free and open to the public to come and go at will. For all ages. Meet in the Great Hall.

**Friday,**  
Oct. 30.  
**5:00–7:00 pm.**

**The Remarkable Landscapes of the Montague Plains.**  
This illustrated talk for adults explores the natural history of the Montague Plains through four complementary perspectives. Geologist Richard Little explains how glaciers shaped the plains and their distinctive sandy soils. Pat Conlin of MassWildlife describes the agency’s long-term stewardship and restoration of imperiled natural plant communities, Caren Caljouw, of the MA Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, covers the benefits of prescribed fire, and ecologist Mike Akresh reviews findings from wildlife research conducted there. Together they show how geology, land management, and ecological research have shaped our understanding of one of New England’s most distinctive pine and oak barrens. There is time for questions following the presentations. Meet in the Great Hall.

**Saturday,**  
Oct. 31.  
**10:00 am–**  
**5:30 pm.**

**Wildlife Costume and Bat Appreciation Day**  
Become an animal and show off your wildlife-themed Halloween costume! Enjoy a treat at the welcome desk and at our investigation station, learn all about the many ways that bats are the best! Stop by the Center after the annual Turners Falls Rag Shag Parade which begins at 5:00 pm at Peskeompskut Park on Avenue A and then ends at the 2nd Street parking lot nearby. The parade is sponsored by the Montague Parks and Recreation Department. All ages.